

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

~~Disclosed is an~~ An image processing apparatus has ~~having~~ a large number of image processing functions, in which resources necessary for code processing units can be suppressed while a large-scale decline in performance is prevented. The apparatus includes ~~a plurality of~~ code processing units ~~unit (310)~~ for executing coding and decoding of image data, and ~~a plurality of~~ request-source task units ~~(301 to 308)~~ (print function, scanner function and FAX transceive function), which. ~~The request-source task units~~ request any one ~~ones~~ of the ~~plurality of~~ code converters to perform a code conversion of image data. The number of request-source task units is greater than the number of code converters and a degree of priority has been set for each one. A ~~code-processing-acquisition~~ determination unit ~~(309)~~ always assigns the ~~plurality of~~ code converting units to processing requests from request-source task units ~~(301 to 304)~~ having a high priority and, if there is an idle code converting unit ~~among the plurality of code converting units~~, assigns the code converting unit to a processing request from a request-source task unit ~~(305 to 308)~~ having a low priority.